



## MESSINA LEGAL ADVICE OFFICE

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### ORGANIZATION DETAILES

#### 1. Name of Organization

Messina Legal Advice Office (MLAO)

#### 2. Physical Address

1224 Rollet Kwindia Street  
Extension 2 Nancefield  
Musina  
0900

#### 3. Postal Address

Messina Legal Advice Office  
P. O. Box 610  
Musina

0900

#### **4. Telephone No**

Office Number; 083 531 0751

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#### **5. Contact Person**

MR : Jacob N. Matakanye

Cell No : 083 531 0751

Position : Director

## **Messina Legal Advice Office (MLAO) Mandate**

Messina Legal Advice Office (MLAO) was established in 1988; the office is located in Musina Town in the Limpopo province South Africa, and it is about 12 km from the Beitbridge Boarder Post

Messina Legal Advice Office (MLAO) is a non-governmental organization, and the only one in Musina Town.

The office services a community with a population, according to the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 Census conducted in RSA Musina` s population size is 68,359 thousand plus within the Greater Musina Municipality, including neighboring home lands (former Venda) and the surrounding farms and urban dwellers. This was 0.131% of total South Africa population. If population growth rate would be same as in period 2001-2011 (+5.69%/year), Musina population in 2021 would be: 118 874\*.

The office was established during the apartheid era where arbitrary arrest was the order of the day and political victims in prisons had limited or no access to legal advice and supports in our community hence the establishment of Messina Legal Advice Office which played a pivotal and active role in giving pro-Bono legal advice to political detainees while in the main MLAO carried out its mandate of giving legal advice and support to Musina community, including the migrant community

## ***Vision:***

To be the leading organization for the advocacy of migrants and human rights in South Africa.

## ***Mission:***

Advancing the fundamental principles of democracy and human rights at the local, provincial and national levels by empowering communities, including immigrant communities, in collaboration with key allies.

## **THE ORGANIZATION OBJECTIVES**

- 1 The organization is a non-profit organization established for the following primary aims and objectives
- 2 To create a culture of respect for the Bill of Rights contained in the constitution of the Republic of South Africa among all sectors of society, especially the vulnerable group, through education and sensitization;

During the establishment of the organization, the organization gave legal advice and support to all sectors of Musina community through workshops and awareness campaigns carried out in the community with the support by funding

community such as the European Union (EU), foundation for human rights, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the Department of Labour.

3 Secondly, the organization assists in the protection and enforcement of human rights where in during the year 2007 the organization was funded by Atlantic Philanthropies to date, on a project called, Migrants Rights Project, assisting migrants to access government office regarding documentation, assist of asylum seekers and refugees, including unaccompanied and separated minors

4 Thirdly the organization continues to do monitoring work on a daily bases at identified transit shelters including the place of safety for unaccompanied minor, the Refugees Reception Office (RRO) the SAPS detention centre

5 To promote children`s rights and justice in the community; The organization continues to assist unaccompanied minors so they are referred to Department of Social Development and are placed in the place of safety and due process are followed including obtaining necessary documents

6 The organization educate the community, particularly the vulnerable such as woman , the aged , farm dwellers, prisoners , children about laws affecting them , e. g. the maintenance Act , Domestic Violence Act , Extension of Security of Tenure Act (ESTA)

7 The organization regularly conciliates on labour dispute and where there is no consensus reached, cases are referred to the commissioner for conciliation mediation and arbitration CCMA.

- 8 From time to time the organization does carry out awareness campaigns through the media, such as having slots on the community radio on programmes targeted at improving the circumstances of the poor, the illiterate, and those ignorant of the law and their rights such as labour issues where the targeted group call-in for clarity regarding the labour matters
- 9 The organization serve as an advocate for the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and international migrants, through lobbying and other means where in the organization has lobbied and collaborate with other organization working on human rights issues to work as a collective and thus creating an enabling environment that resulted in six organizations were funded for a programme called Migrant employment MIGRANT AGENCY GRANT IN(MAGI) which was aimed at providing small grants to community based organizations and to support the development of their capacity during the year 2013.

### **TYPE OF SERVICES RENDERED**

Messina Legal Advice Office community based organization deals with issues around;

- Offer free legal advice to the community
- Educate workers on their basic rights/COIDA/OHSA
- Educate members of the community of whom to approach when their Rights are violated
- Educate the community on child abuse / Human trafficking
- Educate the community on child labour
- Educate the community on forced labour or prostitution

- Educate the community on labour issues
- Education/awareness on xenophobia
- Advocacy and lobbying for the rights of community members including the migrant community
- Monitoring work including detention facilities
- Cultural and sporting activities
- Distribution of information and Printed material on specific issues
- Conduct voter education to the community on topics given by the I.E.C
- Assist asylum seekers to apply for section 22 and 23 permits at the Refugee Reception Offices and Points of Entry respectively
- Assist asylum seekers to appeal from decisions made by Refugees Status Determination Officers

### **Current Project**

The office is currently working on a project on Migrants Rights Programme and offer services on Migrants and refugees / asylum seekers however the project is coming to an end by the end of April 2016 as it is at a winding up stage since 2007

In the past Messina Legal Advice Office was funded as follows:

1. The Government of Canada
2. Hivos 3. UNHCR 4. IOM
- 5 UK Save the children 6. Department of Labour 7. IEC
- 8 Foundation for Human rights (FHR)

<b>MLAO`s Board Management Profile</b>										
<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>ID Number</b>	<b>Physical Disability Yes or No</b>	<b>Highest Qualifications</b>	<b>Contact No</b>	<b>Home Address</b>	<b>Postal Address</b>
<b>1.</b>	Sello Prince Sakala	Chairperson	Black	Male	5201 2856 9508 5	No	Retired Educator	072 013 5277	P. O. Box Musina 0900	Nancefield Musina
<b>2.</b>	T.E Thoroza Evelina Mopai	secretary	Black	Female	5305 2701 6508 5	No	Retired Educator	0834344926	Lancefield location Musina	House # 11 location Musina 0900
<b>3.</b>	Jacob N. Matakanye	Director	Black	Male	6002 0654 3908 5	No	Administrator	0835310751	P. O. Box 610 Musina 0900	3806 Diamond street Freedom Park
<b>4.</b>	Anna Mudanga	Member	Black	Female	PASS# BN 502210	No	Project Manager	072 617 1649	P.O.BOX 608 Musina 0900	House # 956 Mabyelane street Lancefield Musina
<b>5.</b>	Mr. Sibanda	Member	Black	Male	5904 0454 2108 6	No	Retired Educator	081 017 1493 /082 230 2009	Extension 2 Nancefield Musina	Musina 0900
<b>6.</b>	Mrs. Mocheke	Member	Black	Female	5409 2907 7508 7	No	Retired Educator	079 141 8244	Nancefield Musina	Musina 0900

Current Staff Profile 2022					
No	Name	Position/ Duties facilitators	Race	Gender	I D Number
1.	Jacob N. Matakanye	Director	Black	Male	6002065439085
2.	Mordicai James Chirwa	Para legal Admin	Black	Male	6101105381081
3.	Tawanda C Nyagwande	Bookkeeper	Black	Male	Passport # AN 435 435
4.	Evedance Ramokone Ramatsokotla	Paralegal	Black	Male	8309030934084

### Monitoring work

The office does monitoring work on a weekly base from the established transit sites which are as follows:

- The CWA Woman and girls shelter located in Nancefield which is under the uniting reformed church
- The Roman Catholic woman' s transit shelter located in nancefield location close to the nancefield clinic which is under the Catholic church management in Musina
- The Mighty hand Boys Place of safety located in Matswale location which belongs to Uniting Reformed church Management
- The DHA (Refugees Reception Office ) located close to the post office in town

- The taxi rank in town and the Beitbridge border post premises
- SAPS detention centre

### **MLAO' s Partners**

In the execution of its current mandate MLAO has created very meaningful and symbiotic partnerships with other civic organizations and has good working relations with government departments, at local, district, provincial and national government, which includes the following:

- Human Rights Commission IOM JRS UNHCR LHR MSF Amnesty International Red Cross
- Save The Children – UK Concerned Zimbabweans South African Council of Churches.
- In as far as government departments are concerned, MLAO works with all departments depending on the needs that have to be addressed.

### **Xenophobia Project**

During the months of February to April 2015 South Africa experienced yet another ugly face of cultural intolerance of migrant communities perpetrated by South Africans against Migrant communities that has seen many deaths and has lead to many foreign nationals leaving to other countries for safety and others going back to their countries of origin such.

The xenophobia attacks and threats that took place during 2008 are still fresh in our minds where many lives were lost.

Our office during the year 2011 was identified by International Organization for Migration (IOM) working in Musina since 2008 to carry out workshops on a project called “Ubuntu Has No Borders” wherein we workshoped community members on rights and responsibilities, tolerance, conflict management.

### **Establishment of Focus group**

We identified schools and formed focus groups from different grades in order for learners to be part of the campaign

### **and established Peace ambassadors**

We also identified community members particularly from the educators’ fraternal, peace ambassadors whose responsibilities were to identify and gather information pass on to network members and also to deal with conflicts in the community before there are any conflicts.

The project of “UBUNTU HAS NO BORDERS” was a success and it is against this background that Messina Legal Advice Office (MLAO) seeks to partner with Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) in raising awareness on strengthening communities of cultural diversity and peace among communities with high concentration of migrants in Limpopo province. MLAO is advantaged in that it is a community based organization (CBO) and understands the dynamics of Musina community, such as cultural diversity, the geography of the province and the areas of high concentration of the migrant community

## **Social cohesion workshops**

The aim of our organisation is to promote community inclusiveness of migrant communities, peace building and raising community awareness of migrant`s rights and responsibilities on the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Workshop participants will be drawn from, schools as indicated.

### **The partners that MLAO has worked with are:**

MLAO is a member of the inter-agency protection working group in Musina which consists of Humanitarian organizations including but, not limited to IOM, UNHCR, LHR, SCUK, Red Cross, Uniting Reformed Church, Roman Catholic Church, Jesuit Refugees Services (JRS) to name but a few. MLAO is also a member of Musina Community Policing Forum which seeks to address issues of crime in the community. It also participates in the DHA/Municipality Forum which meets regularly to discuss issues on service delivery and migration management.

- Amnesty International
- Concerned Zimbabweans
- Human Rights Commission
- IOM, JRS, LHR ,MSF, Red Cross SA
- Save The Children – UK
- South African Council of Churches UNHCR

<b>No</b>	<b>Name of organisations</b>	<b>Name of Departments</b>
1.	LHR	Department of Labour
2.	JRS	Department of Home Affairs
3.	IOM	Department of Immigration
4.	MSF	Department of Refugees and Asylum Seeker
5.	Red Cross SA	South African Police Service (SAPS)
6.	Save The Children – UK	Department of Social Development
7.	UNHCR	(SANDF) South African National Defense force
8.	South African Council of Churches	
9.	Wits university	

#### COVID-19 Pandemic

MLAO like any other organizations has not been spared from the effects of COVID-19 Pandemic that started in December 2019 in chine and altimey spread globally.

COVID-19 Pandemic disrupted lives, effecting livelihood in an unprecedented manner and in many ways has worsened the plight of migrants.

We hope that with the number of vaccines available the situation will stabilize.

In light of migration patterns coupled with COVID-19 pandemic, the situation requires that as an organization we continue to seek funding from the donor community in order assist both the citizens and indeed the migrant community.